

Global AIDS Program (GAP)



Under the direction of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator's Office, the HHS/CDC Global AIDS Program (GAP) is a proud partner in the unified U.S. Government effort to implement the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. GAP helps resource-constrained countries prevent HIV infection; improve treatment, care, and support for people living with HIV; and build capacity and infrastructure to address the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Making an Impact: Stories from the Field — *Partnering to Prevent Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission*



The World Health Organization -Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) training package is just one important step the CDC Global AIDS Program (GAP) is making to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV. In FY 2003GAP, with U.S. Government funding through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, enabled more than 25,000 pregnant women to receive antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) at 2,653 prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) sites.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Government (USG) through the Department of Health and Human Services-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (HHS/CDC) have developed the *Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) Generic Training Package*.

Preventing mother to child transmission of HIV is a high priority for the USG. In FY 2003 the HHS/CDC Global AIDS Program, with funding through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, enabled more than 25,000 pregnant women to receive antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) at 2,653 prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) sites.

The PMTCT training package is a comprehensive, evidence-based generic training course that was field tested in Guyana, Ethiopia, Cambodia, and Mozambique. It is targeted to health-care workers involved in PMTCT services in resource-constrained settings and intended to be adapted to include the policies, guidelines, and realities of the specific country setting.

Recognizing that building human capacity requires collaboration at multiple levels and across organizations, the package supports the scale-up of PMTCT services, including programs under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (the Emergency Plan), and assists in unifying and strengthening existing PMTCT training efforts.

"The WHO-HHS/CDC partnership gives the training package an internationally recognized quality and standard. It is designed to follow the health care provider from beginning to end through the service delivery process," explains Cheryl Mayo, Training Specialist with the CDC Global AIDS Program (GAP).

Package provides welcome guidance

"This training package gives a voice to ministries of health (MOHs) and country officials. They have been searching for guidance – not for someone to dictate that this is how you must deliver PMTCT services. When ministries see the WHO and CDC -- two organizations with the strong reputations and experience -- partner on the same common goal, it gives them a strong foundation to build on," says Mayo. "It is designed so that countries can take components – use some modules and not others – and add them to an existing package or use it to start a national training program," she adds.

Cristiane Costa, MS, RD, Global Public Health Prevention Specialist with GAP, emphasizes the importance of developing locally designed programs. "Every country has a different approach toward issues such as infant feeding and ARV regimens and the training package allows countries to customize the curriculum to fit within its own context, says Costa.

Kenya will be the first country to adapt and field test the final version of the training package. The adaptation process began in October, and a pilot test will be completed by January 2005.

The full curriculum is available on the GAP Internet Site at www.cdc.gov/nchstp/od/gap/. It also can be found at www.who.int/hiv/pub/mtct/pmtct/en/ and www.womenchildrenhiv.org.

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